

Agenda Item: VI.B.

DATE: November 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Revision to the Rules of the Commission

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Commission has on a number of occasions authorized the Executive Director to act in the interim between meetings of the Commission. There is, however, no on-going language to authorize such activity. It is therefore the recommendation of the staff that the Rules of the Commission be revised to authorize the Executive Director to act in the absence and Item VII of the Rules be amended by adding the following new third sentence:

“The Executive Director shall be empowered to act for the Commission in the Interims when the Commission is not in session.”

It should be noted that this is similar to authority given to the President of the University of Tennessee and the Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regent. The language to be added is identical to that of the TBR. The new Item VII shall then read as follows:

VII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

The Commission is empowered to employ an executive director, define the duties, and, within budgetary limitations, fix the compensation. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission members and must have such educational preparation and experience as will qualify the executive director, in the members’ judgment, to understand and evaluate the problems and needs of the state’s institutions of higher learning and to direct the studies of the Commission. The Executive Director shall be empowered to act for the Commission in the Interims when the Commission is not in session. Within budgetary limitations and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Personnel, the Commission is empowered to employ such other professional and staff employees as may be appropriate for the efficient discharge of its duties. The executive director and other staff members may attend the Commission meetings, unless excluded upon motion.